The Communists declined any responsibility for the unrest and ridiculed the demand for Miliukov's resignation when the entire Cabinet was, anyhow, a bunch of imperialists and reactionaries. They explained the riots as a spontaneous outburst of indignation of the workers and soldiers against the opportunistic majority of the Executive Committee.

Izvestia described the incident as a victory of the moderate wing in the Soviet. Whether it was a victory of the government or the Soviet, the events, and especially the failure of the artillery demonstration staged by General Kornilov in front of the Marinsky Palace, had revealed that the government had no armed force at its disposal. The reaction of the provinces and the army confirmed the weakness of the Cabinet, although it also showed that it enjoyed considerable prestige among the middle classes, officers, and professional people.

The position of the government and especially of Miliukov had become untenable. The solution of the crisis seemed to lie in broadening the base of the Provisional Government by including representation of the Soviet. Prince Lvov was among the first to recognize the need for this step, but his initiative met with strong resistance in the Cabinet. Miliukov's group had no desire to work with men from the Tauride Palace, least of all after the experience of the May days.

On the other hand, the leaders of the Soviet were not eager to join the government. When the question first came before the Executive Committee, only a small minority—including me—voted to participate in a coalition. The Communists opposed the idea, fearing that a strong coalition government would frustrate their plans for seizing power. The leaders of the Mensheviks were against a coalition for the reason that had determined their decision in March to stay out of the Provisional Government. Tseretelli and Chkheidze tried to postpone the decision because they were not sure their party would support its representatives in the Cabinet.

On May 9 the Provisional Government reported to the people on the first two months of its work. It mentioned the political amnesty, repeal of discrimination against national and religious minorities, first steps toward the reorganization of local administration, preparation of the first draft of the electoral law for the Constituent Assembly. This was not much, but it suggested that the government was fulfilling its agreement with the Petrograd Soviet. The report ended with a promise to continue efforts to broaden the base of the government by including representatives from groups that had not yet participated directly in national administration. The

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recognizes that the Soviet had kept most of the troops in the barracks and took measures to put down the workers' demonstrations. It is puzzling to see how such facts add up to a "moral victory of the government."